

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO ALL AMERICAN REPUBLIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS

XMT AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 219477

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO BOGOTA AND USCINCSO
FROM OMONTEVIDEO NOV 6 REPEATED YOU:

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L MONTEVIDEO 3280

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, OAS, UY

SUBJ: LA FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING IN BOGOTA

REF: MONTEVIDEO 3159

1. FONMINISTER BLANCO CALLED ME IN TODAY FOR DISCUSSION SEVERAL
TOPICS. WITH REFERENCE TO BOGOTA CONFERENCE HE WAS IN EFFECT
AGONIZING OVER WHETHER HE SHOULD FOLLOW HIS INITIAL INCLINATION
TO ATTEND. HIS CONCERN WAS THAT THE CONFERENCE RATHER THAN FOLLOW
THE INFORMAL, UNSTRUCTURED FORMAT WHICH HE SAID HE FAVORED (REFTEL),
WOULD BECOME SO FORMALIZED THAT IT WOULD LEAD TO AN AGREED
DOCUMENT (WHICH HE WOULD PROBABLY HAVE TO VOTE FOR) OF SUCH A
NATURE AS TO LEAD TO CONFRONTATION RATHER THAN DIALOGUE WITH THE
US IN A SUBSEQUENT MEETING WITH SECRETARY KISSINGER. HE
READ TO ME THE INVITATION ORIGINALLY RECEIVED FROM VAZQUEZ
CARRIZOSA AND TWO MESSAGES TO THE URUGUAYAN EMBASSY IN BOGOTA
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CONTAINING HIS REPLY AND THOUGHTS AS TO THE CONFERENCE. THESE

LATTER DID INDEED SET FORTH BASES FOR URUGUAYAN ATTENDANCE AND PRINCIPLES CONFORMING TO THE GENERAL CONFIGURATION HE HAD OUTLINED TO ME, HE WAS ALSO AMAZED, IN VIEW OF THE CLEAR INDICATION IN HIS ORIGINAL INVITATION THAT THE CONFERENCE WAS VIEWED AS PREPARATORY TO A LATER MEETING WITH THE SECRETARY, THAT THE COLOMBIANS HAD NONETHELESS FORMALLY INVITED THE SECRETARY TO ATTEND, THUS LEADING TO CERTAIN CONFUSION AND MISUNDERSTANDING.

2. I OUTLINED FOR BLANCO OUR OWN VIEWS AS TO THE CONFERENCE DRAWING ON GUIDANCE RECEIVED AND ENCOURAGED HIS ATTENDANCE. I TOLD HIM THAT HIS THINKING SEEMED VERY MUCH AKIN TO OUR OWN AND THAT HIS PRESENCE AS THAT OF LIKE-MINDED FONMINISTERS COULD HELP GREATLY TO AVOID THE PITFALLS WHICH HE FEARED. WHEN I LEFT HIM HE SEEMED SOMEWHAT REASSURED AND ENCOURAGED TO GO AHEAD.

3. LATER I CALLED HIM BY TELEPHONE AND, BASING MY REMARKS ON BOGOTA'S 9018 OF NOVEMBER 3 WHICH WAS REPEATED HERE BY THE DEPARTMENT, I TOLD HIM THAT I THOUGHT FONMINISTER VAZQUEZ CARRIZOSA'S THINKING, AS REPORTED YESTERDAY TO OUR CHARGE' IN BOGOTA, WAS TENDING TO COINCIDE VERY CLOSELY WITH HIS OWN IN THE DESIRE TO AVOID A FORMAL, STRUCTURED FORUM AND TO PROMOTE FRANK AND OPEN EXCHANGES WITHOUT VOTING. BLANCO THANKED ME FOR THIS INFORMATION, SAID HE WAS VERY MUCH REASSURED AND ENCOURAGED IN HIS INCLINATION PERSONALLY TO ATTEND THE CONFERENCE.

4. COMMENT-ACTION REQUESTED: AS TODAY'S MEETING ESTABLISHED WHAT FONMINISTER SAID HE HOPED WOULD BE THE BASIS FOR A MORE OR LESS REGULAR, FULL AND FRANK EXCHANGE OF VIEWS, AND SINCE HIS IDEAS AND CONCERNS WITH RESPECT TO THE BOGOTA CONFERENCE SEEMED TO ME TO BE VERY MUCH LIKE OUR OWN, I WOULD HOPE THE DEPARTMENT WOULD GIVE ME SOME SPECIFIC COMMENTARY AND REACTION WHICH I COULD PASS ON TO THE FONMINISTER. IT WOULD APPEAR BLANCO'S OWN SPONTANEOUS CONVICTIONS WITH RESPECT TO THE CONFERENCE ARE SUCH AS TO HELP KEEP IT ON THE TRACK AND THAT HE SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED.

SIRACUSA

UNQUOTE RUSH

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